

25. The method recited in claim 23 wherein the digital communication system includes a Packet/Paging Channel, the method further comprising fifth sending a Packet/Paging Channel Request Message to the base station on the access channel; and second assigning the communicating transceiver to said Packet/Paging Channel in response to receiving said Packet/Paging Channel Request Message.

26. The method recited in claim 23 wherein the base station includes a plurality of searchers for locating the encoded data packet based on the specific long code; and wherein the base station has a searcher assignment waiting list, the method further comprising placing the communicating transceiver on said searcher assignment list if the base station is unable to locate an idle searcher from among said plurality of searchers.

27. The method recited in claim 26, the method further comprising removing the communicating transceiver from the searcher assignment waiting list and second assigning the communicating transceiver to a new idle searcher.

28. The method recited in claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of transceivers has a priority level; and wherein an assigned transceiver has an assignment to one of the plurality of searchers, the method further comprising, when said priority level of said assigned transceiver becomes lower than said priority level of the communicating transceiver, first revoking said assignment from said assigned transceiver resulting in a revoked transceiver and third assigning the communicating transceiver to said one searcher.

29. In a digital communication system for communicating information, said digital communication system including a digital transceiver and a base station, said digital transceiver having a bandwidth demand, a system for data communications, comprising:

- a random access channel for communicating a data packet between said digital transceiver and said base station;
- a dedicated channel for communicating said data packet between said digital transceiver and said base station; and

- a processor for switching from said random access channel to said dedicated channel when said bandwidth demand exceeds a first threshold, and for switching from said dedicated channel to said random access channel when said bandwidth demand drops below a second threshold.

30. The system recited in claim 29 wherein the information is communicated over the digital communication system using code division multiple access (CDMA); and wherein the data packet comprises a CDMA data packet.

31. In a digital communication system for communicating information, said digital communication system including a digital transceiver and a base station, said digital transceiver having a bandwidth demand, a method for data communications, comprising:

- first transmitting a data packet from said digital transceiver to said base station over a random access channel;

- second transmitting said data packet from said digital transceiver to said base station over a dedicated channel;

- first switching from said random access channel to said dedicated channel when said bandwidth demand exceeds a first threshold; and

- second switching from said dedicated channel to said random access channel when said bandwidth demand drops below a second threshold.

32. The method recited in claim 31 wherein the information is communicated over the digital cellular communica-

tion system using code division multiple access (CDMA); and wherein the data packet comprises a CDMA data packet.

33. In a digital communication system for communicating information, said digital communication system having a forward link and a reverse link and having a broadcast channel and an access channel, a system for communicating a data packet, comprising:

- a base station for transmitting said data packet on a Packet/Paging Channel over said forward link; and

- a mobile digital transceiver, said mobile digital transceiver receiving said data packet from said Packet/Paging Channel over said forward link.

34. The system recited in claim 33 wherein the base station sends a paging message on the broadcast channel over the forward link to determine a location of the mobile digital transceiver before transmitting the data packet.

35. The system recited in claim 33 wherein the location of the mobile digital transceiver is within an area; and wherein the base station transmits the data packet on the Packet/Paging Channel over the forward link throughout said area.

36. The system recited in claim 33 wherein the system includes a plurality of base stations each having a handoff region; wherein a handoff occurs each time the mobile digital transceiver moves from said handoff region of one of said plurality of base stations to said handoff region of another of said plurality of base stations; and wherein the mobile digital transceiver sends a request message to the base station on the access channel over the reverse link after each said handoff to provide the location of the mobile digital transceiver.

37. In a digital communication system for communicating information, said digital communication system having a forward link and a reverse link and having a broadcast channel and an access channel, a method for communicating a data packet, comprising:

- transmitting said data packet on a Packet/Paging Channel over said forward link by a base station; and

- receiving said data packet from said Packet/Paging Channel over said forward link by a mobile digital transceiver;

- determining a location of said mobile digital transceiver while transmitting said data packet.

38. The method recited in claim 37, further comprising sending a paging message on the broadcast channel over the forward link by the base station to determine the location of the mobile digital transceiver before transmitting the data packet.

39. The method recited in claim 37 wherein the location of the mobile digital transceiver is within an area; wherein the transmitting step includes sending the data packet on the Packet/Paging Channel over the forward link throughout said area.

40. The method recited in claim 37 wherein the system includes a plurality of base stations each having a handoff region; wherein a handoff occurs each time the mobile digital transceiver moves from said handoff region of one of said plurality of base stations to said handoff region of another of said plurality of base stations, the method further comprising sending a request message to the base station on the access channel over the reverse link after each said handoff to provide the location of the mobile digital transceiver.

41. A digital communication system, comprising:

- at least one remote transceiver for transmitting an encoded data packet on a random access channel, each of said at least one remote transceivers for encoding